

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method to increase the information bit rate in a telecommunications network comprising several stations for the transmission of data and speech, wherein the method consists of the time-multiplexing of the data and speech sub-channels with a general services and synchronization sub-channel to form a frame consisting of an alternation of data, speech and synchronization slots.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the synchronization sub-channel is used for tasks pertaining to the links between at least two stations of the network.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the tasks comprise at least one of the following tasks: a request for priority transmission formulated by a unit, a warning reported by a unit, a "flash" message, a request for the repetition of a message, commands sent out by the master unit, the reconfiguration of the network.

4. A method according to one of the above claims, wherein each data, speech and synchronization slot comprises a first part reserved for the synchronization with the synchronization signal sent by one of the stations of the network.

5. A method according to one of the above claims, wherein a synchronization signal is sent by the master station of the network on the synchronization sub-channel.

6. A method according to one of the above claims wherein when one of the sub-channels, namely the data or the speech sub-channel, is not busy, it is used for the transmission of the information flowing in the other sub-channel.

7. A method according to one of the above claims, implementing an anti-collision procedure when there are several simultaneous or almost simultaneous requests for the use of a data or speech sub-channel.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the anti-collision process consists in assigning a random number to each requesting unit, the unit with the lowest number obtaining the right to send first, and the other units obtaining the right to send in the order corresponding to the rising order of random numbers that have been assigned to them.

9. A method according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the anti-collision process is governed by a rotating rule of priority.

10. A method according to one of the claims 6 to 9, wherein when a first station makes simultaneous use of both the data sub-channel and the speech sub-channel, and when another station requires the use of one of the sub-channels, the

first station releases the required sub-channel.

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